

REMARKS

The applicant has received the office action of March 8, 2005 wherein the office objected to the specification and the claims as to form and rejected claims 1-6 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Chen et al. The office rejected claims 7, 10-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestion regarding the objections to the form of the specification and claims. Accordingly, the specification and claims have been amended herewith to place the specification and claims in proper form per the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 7, 8, 9 and 19 have been canceled.

In regard to the claims, claim 1 has been amended to point out that the shroud extends over the optical elements to bring out that the optical coupling is completed after the shroud has been placed over the coupling. Figure 3 and Figure 4 illustrate applicants closed device. Attention is drawn to the field of the present invention which is to post packaging optical coupling where the alignment of the optical members can be completed after packaging the optical coupling. In contrast, Chen is directed to optical fibers in substrates for fiber-chip connections that are aligned when there is no covering or shroud over the optical fibers. While the office has suggested that it would be obvious to place a shroud over the connection of Chen it is pointed out that Chen does not do so as evidenced by the Figures 1-8 of Chen and by the fact that Chen specifically shows and describes making the alignment in a substrate when each of his optical devices are uncovered. In addition, to use a shroud with Chen would prevent Chen from using a reference signal for alignment as Chen points in column 3 lines 46-55 that :

"For example, when the original design the spectral components should fall on the photo diodes number 101 to 612 in the array, because of misalignment the optical signals may be shifted to falling photo diodes 218 to 720. In this case, the output signal from the photo diode

array have to be calibrated to compensate the offset. Applying a reference light source to identify is projection address the photo diode array can achieve this. This is usually a one-time calibration and can be performed after the fiber is assembled on the chip."

It is submitted that if Chen et al needs to apply a reference light source to identify the projection area it is submitted that a shroud would interfere with the reference light source of Chen et al.

While the office has taken the position that the features of the dependent claim would be obvious. Reconsideration is requested since the office is using the applicant's claims as the template for such rejection and not the prior art. In addition, the present invention, as the title of the inventions states and as the claims state the invention is directed to making a "post packaging optical coupling" which is not taught by Chen. Note, Chen states his invention is "an integrated optical fiber alignment mirror module" which he forms "a groove in a substrate" to receive has optical element with the "surface end of the groove being substantially reflective" so that light can reflect out of the groove. Chen does not recognize that the mirrors can be used to form an optical coupling after the unit has been packaged.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-6 and claims 10-20 are in condition for allowance.